Rural Telecommunication Corporation for promoting economic development in the villages and to cross-subsidise rural telecommunication service with urban institutional services; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present with the Department.

(b) Does not arise.

Private participation in telecommunication sector

535. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has pleaded for private participation in the telecom. sector; and

(b) if so, what is the response of Government to the suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. Suggestions for participation by the private sector in telecommunications, have been received from FICCI.

(b) In the field of telecommunications, the Government are following a liberal policy.

The equipment, namely, telephone instruments, PABXs, teleprinters, FAX, data terminals and modems, store and forward message switches, etc. whose compatibility has been approved by the Department can be owned and operated by the subscribers.

Private sector participation in the manufacture of telecommunication equipment has been allowed according to the Industrial Policy Resolution 1956 and guidelines issued by the Department of Electronics.

Aromatic Project at Manali

536. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the components of Aromatics Project at Manali;

(b) what is the estimated investment;

(c) what will be the production capacity of each unit;

(d) by when the whole project is expected to go into production; and

(e) how much foreign exchange is expected to be saved annually after the project goes into production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (e) The components of aromatics project at Manali are basic aromatics such as Benzene, Xylene and Fibre intermediate—purified Terepthalic Acid. The project is estimated to cost about Rs. 840.00 crores. The approved capacity of the products is: (i) Orthoxylene—30000 TPA, (ii) Benzene—3000 TPA, (iii) Purified Terepthalic Acid—1,50,000 TPA. The project is expected to take about four years for implementation after the necessary approvals. The estimated foreign exchange to be saved annually after production commences from this project will be about Rs. 110.00 crores.

Pending applications for telephone connections

537. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of applications for telephone connections pending at present in different States; and

(b) by what time a telephone connection is likely to be granted on demand in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The total number of applications for telephone connections pending in different States as on 31st May, 88 is furnished in the enclosed statement (*see* below)

(b) The objective as per draft perspective plan is to provide telephones on demand by the year 2000 AD.

Statement

Total Number of Applications for Telephone Connections Pending in Different States As On 31st May, 1988

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total No. of applications pending.
1	Andhra Pradesh	69351
2	Arunachal Pradesh	366
3	Assam	8795
4	Bihar	13061
5	Delhi Union Territory	194038
6	Goa	6210
7	Gujarat	101601
8	Haryana	31842
9	Himachal Pradesh	5549
10	J & K	10781
11	Karnatka	67848
12	Kerala	103435
13	Madhya Pradesh	51631
14	Maharashtra	339520
15	Manipur	576
16	Meghalaya	833
17	Mizoram	517
18	Nagaland	722
19	Orissa	6630
20	Punjab	73993
21	Rajasthan	54551
22	Sikkim	171 (31.3.88)
23	Tamilnadu	86878
24	Tripura	664
25	Uttar Pradesh	58531
26	West Bengal	46741